

"Purge your Lodges of such. They are a source of weakness, and a cause of shame and disgrace.

"I say these things here because I have been called upon to say them to W. M.'s singly, in reply to anxious inquiries (in instances more than I should like to mention) during the past year.

"A society making the professions that we make ought to be heard from upon questions of public morality. The trumpet of the Grand Master, at least, shall give forth no uncertain sound.

"Masonry has outlived all its persecutors and stands to-day pre-eminent among all human institutions, because its principles have the vitality and the sanction of the word of God.

"As we maintain, practice, and transmit these principles in a purity unsullied by the contaminations of greed or the toleration of vicious associates, so may we boldly unfurl our banners bearing the title which we proudly claim of AN ANCIENT AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY."

Reports on Foreign Correspondence for 1875 and 6, are submitted by Bro. Garfield, Grand Secretary, and Bro. Pratt, the latter reviewing our Proceedings for 1875. Referring to Brother MacCoy's notice of motion requiring the Worshipful Master to give his reasons to a visiting Brother for refusing admittance, comments as follows:

"We hope it will *not* be adopted. The harmony of Lodges is of prime necessity—a necessity paramount to the indulgence of an individual visitor. Those who insist on the absolute right of visit, assume that, when a visit is refused, the Masonic standing of the visitor is necessarily impugned or impaired. This is not true. It is a universal law of Masonry (as we understand the law) that a brother presenting a dimitt and asking to affiliate, is not injured, in his Masonic standing, by a refusal of the Lodge to admit him. He is at liberty to petition the same Lodge or some other Lodge as often as may be necessary to secure a membership, and no number of refusals impeaches his standing or bars his request. By the same reasoning, but in a stronger sense, the refusal of visit, to a Mason in good standing, because of the refusal of the W. Master or because of the 'I object' of member of the Lodge, does no injury to the visitor's standing—unless reasons for the refusal are openly given—reasons that reflect upon the personal or Masonic character of the visitor."

We regret to say, Brother Pratt, that it has been adopted.

Brother Pratt, in referring to our report on Foreign Correspondence, says: "Brother Crowe must be a *rara avis in terra*, he Crowe's for others and not for himself." Brother Pratt must modestly admit that, in his case, we did not *crow* without *caws*.

M. W. Brother Wm. Dunham, elected Grand Master.

R. W. Brother Ellery J. Garfield, re-elected Grand Secretary.